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First Tenant of The Forks Market Celebrates 30 Years in Business Over 25,000 Students Taught

The Forks, Winnipeg – The original tenant of The Forks Market, Royal Dance at The Forks, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year in the way it celebrates all of its year-ends, with a huge recital.

This year's annual recital, taking place on June 3 at the Centennial Concert Hall, is no different than any other year – with over 700 students performing. But, what makes this year special is the culmination of 30 years worth of work.

"We estimate that over 25,000 students have been through our programs since its inception in 1975," says Rita Jamieson, Director of Royal Dance at The Forks. "We started out teaching ballet, jazz and tap for all age groups. Over the years we've expanded our programs to include hip-hop and breakdancing."

Two programs are particular favourites of Jamieson's: "Dancing Dads" and "Mom & Me".

"We piloted the Dancing Dads program nearly 20 years ago as a way for Dads to connect with their kids," says Jamieson. "Now there will be nearly 20 Dads on the stage this weekend dancing with their little kids, it's a sight you'll never forget." Not to be left out, the Moms will share their special time on stage with their children as well.

That type of connection to her students is what others say makes Jamieson's brand of teaching different.

"She is successful because she genuinely cares for her students and has a profound love of dance of all kinds," says Randy Cameron, General Manager, The Forks Market. "Not only does she train her students to be great artists but she also trains her own teachers as well, something no other studio does like she can."

Jamieson was recently nominated for two YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards for her work in the Arts & Culture category and Business and the Professions – the first woman in the 30 years of these awards to be nominated in two categories in the same year.

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Note to media:

Photo opportunities available at the 30th anniversary recital, Centennial Concert Hall

- June 2, 6:00 pm dress rehearsal, including "Dancing Dads" and "Mom & Me"
- June 3, 2pm and 7pm Recitals

For more information contact:

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